to Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, has directed that the matter may in the first instance be considered by Group of Ministers (GoM).

(c) Not yet.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Deputation status in Prasar Bharati Corporation

1081. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed deemed deputation status to the employees working in the Prasar Bharati Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are planning not to absorb these employees in the Prasar Bharati Corporation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the time schedule for absorbing them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This was done to clarify the status of the Government servants in Prasar Bharati and to enable Prasar Bharati to exercise necessary powers of a borrowing authority.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati is in the process of finalisation of recruitment rules and service conditions of its employees, which will give the option to the employees for absorption, as per the provisions of Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.

Crime Based Programmes on DD new channels

†1082. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards increasing broadcasting of Crime based programmes shown on news channels of Doordarshan; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon and the steps being taken to prevent adverse effect likely to fall upon the youths as a result of such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous Corporation, has autonomy in Programme matters. Prasar Bharati has informed that at present only two such programmes are being telecast and that their primary purpose is to act as deterrent to criminals and anti-social elements. All programmes on Doordarshan are required to abide by the Doordarshan's programme code.

Memorandum by NFADE

1083. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Akashwani and Doordarshan Employees (NFADE) has submitted a memorandum in September 2004, on the problem faced by the employees due to curtailment of benefits and prolonged uncertainty of status;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the issues raised?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Federation of Akashwani and Doordarshan Employees (NFADE) in their memorandum have, *inter-alia*, urged upon the Government to ensure proper funding of Prasar Bharati through the grants-in-aid and ensure that they continue to receive the facilities/benefits to which they were entitled as Government employees.

(c) The issues raised by the Federation are receiving the attention of the Government.

DD-II Metro Channel of Doordarshan

†1084. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether DD-II Metro Channel of Doordarshan has any plan of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.